

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2005

Deputy Brian DeHart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Deputy DeHart lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Kylissa Miller, chief Deputy Auditor, took roll call. All members were present except Darrick Scott. Mr. Hellmann stated that Mr. Scott is excused.

Mr. Hellmann asked for the minutes from the previous January 4, 2005 meeting. Mr. Roman asked that a correction be made to show that Mr. Scott seconded the nomination of Mr. Hellmann for Council President. Mr. Roman moves that the minutes as amended be approved, Mr. Morris second the motion. Mr. Hellmann asked for corrections to the November 16, 2004 minutes. Mr. Anderson requested a correction in the Motion section be made to reflect a motion was made to replace the immunization clerk in the Health Department.

President Hellmann asked for comments from the public. He asks that persons making comments please state their name and address.

Ms. Pat Macke, representative of West Central Indiana Economic Development, introduced several county users of the Rural Transit Transportation System.

Mr. Frank Hill, 6807 W Manor Dr., Terre Haute is asking the Council for support to keep the present Rural Transit Transportation System operating in Terre Haute. He stated that it is a plus for our county. He has talked to Monroe County and it has been very successful there. He is willing to volunteer his time to keep this system going.

Mr. Dave Louder, 4398 E Twig Road Dr. addressed the Council. Mr. Louder has a special needs son who is 21 years old who used the transportation system to get to his job.

Mr. Frank Will, from Brazil, who is employed with the Wabash Valley Independent Learning Center, stated that the biggest barrier to people with disabilities is the lack of transportation. Support for the transportation system will improve their quality of life.

Ms. Donna Hulley, Rosedale Road stated that she uses the transportation to get to the doctor and for grocery shopping. She stated that she would even be willing to pay more.

Ms. Theresa Atterson, 5211 W Cassidy Dr, West Terre Haute, is legally blind. She uses the transportation for herself as well as her children. She is willing to help in any way that she can.

Kathleen Johnson, West Terre Haute used the Rural Transit system because she can't see to drive. She uses it to get to town.

Ms. Macke stated the State has contacted her and they will be here to talk to us about how to continue the Rural Transit for 2006 and beyond. One of the minimum requirements for state assistance is that we have to have been up and running for 2 years.

Mr. Brad Anderson asked if we are in the second year. Ms. Macke responded that was correct.

Mr. Mike Morris asked if the funding comes from the Indiana Department of Transportation Grant #311. Ms. Macke confirmed.

Mr. Curley asked if the Rural Transit system has to have matched funding from the City Council as well as the County Council to continue. He asked if the County Council would approve the funding and the City Council did not would it continue. Ms. Macke replied that the City is totally out of it, that it would be entirely the County project now. She stated that was the decision of the City Council. The City wanted to give the County the opportunity to see if the system was vital and needed. The City put up matched funding to continue the system through 2004.

Mr. Raymond Watts, County Recorder thanked the new Council President for coming to his office talking to him and his staff. He would like the Council to consider letting him fill a position in his department which was vacated by retirement. He stated that the funding is already there. He stressed that filling this position is mandatory for his department to continue to provide the best possible record keeping for Vigo County.

There were no more public comments.

Next on the agenda Resolutions extending the approval, authority or agreement of the Council which there are none pending.

Mr. Hellmann stated that next on the agenda items 6 and 7, communications from elected officials of the county and communications from other officials or agencies. A sheet titled Vigo County Log, with the wrong meeting date on it, has been distributed for Council viewing. It is an attempt to identify every request which the Council receives relating to the business of the Council. All of these are on file with the secretary of the Vigo County Council. Requesting a review of these may be done by contacting the Auditor's office.

Mr. Anderson asked the Auditor when the Council put in the budget for this year how much were we over in budget than revenue coming in. Mr. Bramble, County Auditor replied that he did not recall the exact figures but that it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.5 million short. Mr. Anderson stated that he sees from the business at hand tonight that there are requests for additional appropriations of \$212,000. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Bramble if we are already over budget how can we ask for more? Mr. Bramble replied one can ask all they want it is up for the Council to decide.

There were no reports from standing committees.

There were no reports from select committees.

Mr. Hellmann stated that we do have reports ordinances relating to appropriations. One is the amended Vigo County 2005 Salary Ordinance which was introduced by Mr. Hellmann. Mr. Hellmann yields the chair so that he might be heard on the issue.

Mr. Hellmann passed the gavel to Mr. Roman.

Mr. Hellmann stated that the 2005 Salary Ordinance amendment is in all respects the same with the exception of the deletion of paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 of the old ordinance which provided for a procedure in the event an employee left their employment with the county that the funding would cease. It would then be appropriate for the department head or office holder, if they so desire, to come before the Council to justify the need for the replacement of that employee. There was an exclusion for the Vigo County Sheriff's department as well as an exclusion for an employee terminated for just cause. Mr. Hellmann introduces this amendment to change our course but not our objective in the method in which studying the reductions in force might be appropriate.

Mr. Roman asked the Council members for any questions or comments that they may have regarding this amendment. Mr. Morris, new to the Council, asked past members for the reasoning in passing this ordinance. Mr. Curley replied that the Council was faced with an over budget amount of 1.5 million going into the 2005 budget. The council was looking to cut costs through attrition once an employee left by saving on health, salary and insurance costs. The biggest cost in county government is employees. The Council felt if all departments could tighten their belts and eliminate employees it would help the county.

Mr. Anderson replied at the time they were looking at the budget it was nearly 6.2 million over budget. The problem is the revenue has stayed the same or even gone down but the cost of doing business, gasoline, health insurance and the jail continues to raise. The jail is taking its toll on the budget. No department submitted out of line budgets but the revenue just does not stay up with the budgets. We are in the first month of the new year and already there are already requests for additional appropriation of a quarter of a million dollars. When the Council went into the budget meetings we were able to cut 5 million from the budget, the only thing left was to lay off people, cut health insurance for our employees or close the jail. None of these were feasible. At that time we looked at attrition. The problem he has with the ordinance is that the Council does not want to micro manage each office. The persons in charge of these departments know what they need. He has talked with the city and he thinks the Council may have to do what the City did, hire a Human Resource person.

Mr. Roman stated that the Council felt they had no other alternative, costs had to be cut. Now the Council will have to review each request.

Mr. Hellmann has the right to close. He stated that the last Council did a good thing to have adopted the ordinance; it sent a good management signal throughout the entire county government that we have a problem here. He does not offer this amendment in a notion that we abandon an effort to do a reduction in force. He does feel if we pass this we allow for a lot of conversations to transpire and for the Council to visit the offices and evaluate the need for employees in a more informed way. Mr. Hellmann moves to adopt the 2005 Salary Ordinance as amended, Mr. Bird seconds the motion.

Mr. Roman returned the gavel to Mr. Hellmann.

Mr. Hellmann introduced Ordinance 2005-2, relating to the budget for E911. Under the Council rules an ordinance must, in its normal course, be referred to in a previous meeting and adopted in the subsequent meeting, unless there is consent of the Council in a two-thirds vote that it can be adopted on its first attempt with Council. Mr. Hellmann asks for consent of the Council to consider the ordinance. Mr. Roman moves to suspend the rules. Mr. Curley seconds the motion. Mr. Curley pointed out to the Council that this is Emergency Right To Know fund, it is not tax money from the General Fund it is an annual budget that the E911 comes before the Council to have approved. Mr. Curley moves to approve the motion. Mr. Roman seconds the motion.

Mr. Hellmann directs to the Council additional appropriation 2005-1 relating to courts and drug testing \$25,000 which was deleted from last years budget. The Chair refers this ordinance to the committee on budget adjustments, Councilman bird is chair. Mr. Hellmann also refers requests 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 to the committee on Budget Adjustments, Transfers and Appropriations.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-3 request of the Clerk of Vigo County requesting to hire clerk to deal with Title IV-D. Referred to Committee on Annual Budget.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-4 Non-Reverting Operating Fund of the Vigo County Park Department referred to the Committee on Annual Budget.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-9 Health Fund, referred to Committee on Annual Budget out of HIV-AID grant fund.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-8, 12, 21, 22, 23, 24 Reassessment Fund, referred to Committee on Special Projects.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-5 Health HIV/AIDS nurse, referred to Committee on Annual Budget.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-6 Vigo County Drug Court User Fee, Drug Court Coordinator at the request of the Court to shift from the General Fund \$142,000 onto the Drug Court User Fees Fund, referred to Committee on Annual Budget.

Additional appropriation ordinance 2005-7 request of the Commissioners to appropriate from the EDIT fund \$500,000 special projects. This was approved last year, unencumbered and has to be reconsidered for the current year. The request was referred to the Committee on Budget Adjustments, Transfers and Appropriations.

Salary ordinance 2005-1 relates to a starting grade for the Public Defender, referred to Personnel Committee.

Item #14 on the Agenda relating to Appointments. The rules provide that the Chair make those appointments. Appointed to the Board of the Vigo County Park Department, C. Don Nattkemper

current member of the board, appointment will be until the end of the year. This appointment requires a majority vote of the Council. Mr. Anderson moves to approve the motion. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. Appointment to the Advisory Board of E911, Darrick Scott. Appointment to the Board of Directors of the West Central Economic Development, Michael Morris and Robert Hellmann.

There were no further comments from the Council. Mr. Curley moves to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roman seconds the motion.

Commissioner Bill Bryan approached the Council on the hiring of the Director for Soil and Water and the assistant director of Area Planning. Mr. Hellmann replied that the amended Vigo County Salary Ordinance solves that problem, those persons may be hired.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 24, 2005 at 7pm.

The motion on the floor to adjourn was voted upon. Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

MOTIONS

Minutes of the November 16, 2004 and January 4, 2005 Meetings - Mr. Roman moves to approve the January 4, 2005 minutes as amended. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. All members present voting aye, the motion passes. Mr. Anderson moves to approve the November 16, 2004 minutes as amended. Mr. Curley seconds. All members present voting aye, the motion passes.

2005 Salary Ordinance Amendment - Mr. Hellmann moves to adopt the 2005 Salary Ordinance as amended. Mr. Bird Seconds the motion. All members present voting aye, except Mr. Anderson and Mr. Morris voting nay, the motion passes.

Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2005-2 - Mr. Roman moves to suspend the rules that an ordinance must follow its normal course, Mr. Curley seconds the motion. All members present voting aye, the motion passes. Mr. Curley moves to approve the annual budget for Emergency Planning Right to Know. Mr. Roman seconds the motion. All members present voting aye, the motion passes.

Board of the Vigo County Park Department - Mr. Anderson moves to approve the appointment of C. Don Nattkemper to the Board of the Vigo County Park Department. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. All members present voting aye, the motion passes.

Adjourn - Mr. Curley moves to adjourn the meeting at 8 pm. Mr. Roman seconds the motion. All members present voting aye, the motion passes.

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 24th day of February 2005.

AYE

NAY

_____	Brad Anderson	_____
_____	Mark Bird	_____
_____	Tim P. Curley	_____
_____	I. Mike Morris	_____
_____	Turk Roman	_____
_____	Darrick C. Scott	_____

Robert Hellmann, President

Attest:

James W. Bramble
Auditor